

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are currently pending.

By this amendment, claims to 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 have been amended, and claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11 would be pending.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kohashi et al. (U.S. patent No 6,642,960). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohashi et al. (U.S. patent No 6,642,960) in further view of Hamasaki (U.S. patent No 5,335,008). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohashi et al. (U.S. patent No 6,642,960) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Claims 1, 6 and 8, as amended, are directed to arrangements involving creating one-dimensional correction data in horizontal direction by performing computation using signals which are acquired by image sensing in an unexposed state and smaller in number than said plurality of pixel, and correcting image data of said plurality of pixels for image data of each array of pixels arrayed in horizontal direction, acquired by image sensing in an exposed state, by using the one-dimensional correction data in horizontal direction.

That is, the claimed arrangement corrects image data for each image data in a horizontal direction (i.e., the image data acquired by image sensing in an exposed state) by using

the one-dimensional correction data in horizontal direction, created based on signals acquired by image sensing in an unexposed state to achieve.

By way of exemplary reference, the specification describes two exemplary causes of deterioration in quality of an image acquired by image sensing performed by an image sensing apparatus: (1) Two-dimensional dark fixed pattern noise caused by pixel loss; and (2) One-dimensional dark fixed pattern noise caused by voltage irregularity provided to pixels. The claimed arrangements for example are able to address deterioration in quality of image due to the noise described above in (2).

In contrast, Kohashi simply discloses that image data is corrected by interpolating and compensating the defective picture elements with the selected picture elements in an exposed state to prevent a deterioration in quality of image caused for example by the noise describe above in (1). Thus, Kohashi fails to disclose that image data acquired by image sensing in exposed state is corrected based on the signal acquired by image sensing in an unexposed state. Further, Kohashi fails to disclose that one-dimensional correction data in the horizontal direction is created based on the signal acquired by image sensing in an unexposed state. Kohashi also fails to disclose that image data of the plurality of pixels acquired by image sensing in an exposed state is corrected for image data of each array of pixels arrayed in the horizontal direction, by using the one-dimensional correction data in the horizontal direction.

Accordingly, claims 1, 6 and 8 and their dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5309.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5309.

Respectfully submitted,
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